



# MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE

## TENNESSEE FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: KAREN ALEXANDER  
931.294.4111 (OFFICE)  
800.747.8868 (TOLL FREE)

### **FIREFIGHTERS FACE THE ULTIMATE TEST**

**BELL BUCKLE** – Firefighters from across Tennessee are in intensive training to compete in the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tennessee Ultimate Fire Fighter “TUFF” Challenge and Muster, which will be held at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy on Saturday, September 29.

The event is sponsored by the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, the Tennessee Firemen’s Association and the Tennessee Fallen Firefighter Memorial Committee. The competition celebrates fire fighters and launches Fire Prevention Month, which is in October.

“We are very excited to have record statewide participation as well as a record number of sponsors this year,” said Leslie Newman, Tennessee State Fire Marshal. “We’re proud of our firefighters and the job they do.”

The TUFF event consists of a rigorous timed course of multiple tasks including victim rescue, ventilation, hose hosting and climbing. All events are run consecutively. These tasks simulate the challenges firefighters may face on a daily bases. A “Muster” has been added to this years’ event and includes tugging a fire truck, hose advance and bucket brigade.

The competition is geared to showcase the physical demands of fire fighting and the athleticism of our fire fighters.

TUFF 2006 will also include a Kids Challenge. The Challenge is open to any child between the ages of five and 10, and is a mini version of the TUFF Challenge. All participants will receive a ribbon for their efforts.

From Memphis to Knoxville, registrations for 2007 consist of 213 total competitors, including 2 female teams, 38 relay teams, 42 individual competitors and 6 muster teams from 31 fire departments.

Proceeds from this event benefit the Tennessee Fallen Firefighter Memorial. The memorial will be dedicated to the men and women that have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their communities and neighbors.

Awards will be given to the winning teams. A “traveling axe” will be awarded to the top finishers, both in the volunteer and paid fire fighter category. This axe will be displayed at the winning department and each team will have to compete each year in order to keep the axe.

“Citizens need to realize the sacrifice that our fire fighters make in order to better protect the public they serve.” stated Roger Hawks, Academy Executive Director. “This is a great opportunity for the public to

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2161 UNIONVILLE/DEASON ROAD  
BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE 37020  
931.294.4111

come out and show their support and appreciation for our states' first responders."

The Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy, located on 330 acres 15 miles south of Murfreesboro is the state educational facility that offers the latest in training technology, state-of-the-art equipment and a full spectrum of courses to emergency service first responders and to codes enforcement personnel. The 15 building campus includes dedicated structures for training of fire and codes enforcement.

For media inquiries, contact Karen Alexander at 931.294.4111.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT TEAMS**

AEDC Fire Department	Kittrell Volunteer Fire Department
Alcoa Fire Department	Knoxville Fire Department
Almaville Fire Department	Memphis Fire Department
Ashland City Fire Department	Murfreesboro Fire Department
Bartlett Fire Department	Munford Fire Department
Brentwood Fire Department	Pleasant View Volunteer Fire Department
Cocke County Fire Department	Putnam County Fire Department
Columbia Fire Department	Portland Fire Department
Cookeville Fire Department	Rural/Metro Fire Department
Cross Plains Volunteer Fire Department	Rutherford Fire Department
Cleveland Fire Department	Shelbyville Fire Department
Delrose Fire Department	Tullahoma Fire Department
Gallatin Fire Department	Unionville Volunteer Fire Department
Gordonsville Fire Department	White House Fire Department
Harriman Fire Department	Wilson County EMA
Hendersonville Fire Department	

## **CHALLENGE SPONSORS**

TN Fire Chiefs Association, TN Firemans Association, TN Fallen Firefighter Memorial Committee, Hudson Fire Apparatus, Andy Womack, Tupelo Fire Equipment, Pro-Fire, Heritage Fire Equipment, Southeastern Apparatus Sales, LLC, Keeble Rescue, Dove Designs, Lewis Brothers Bakers, VFIS (Volunteer Fire Insurance Services), Trophy Rock, NAFECO, MES (Municipal Emergency Services), Putnam County Fire Department, Hendersonville Fire Department

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